William M. Briggs, PhD

Statistician to the Stars! matt@wmbriggs.com 917-392-0691

1. Experience

- (1) 2016: AUTHOR OF *Uncertainty: The Soul of Modeling, Probability & Statistics*, a book which argues for a complete and fundamental change in the philosophy and practice of probability and statistics. Eliminate hypothesis testing and estimation, and move to verifiable predictions. This includes AI and machine learning. Call this The Great Reset, but a good one.
- (2) 2004-2016 Adjunct Professor of Statistical Science, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York I taught a yearly Masters course to people who (rightfully) hate statistics. Interests: philosophy of science & probability, epistemology, epidemiology (ask me about the all-too-common epidemiologist fallacy), Bayesian statistics, medicine, climatology & meteorology, goodness of forecasts, overconfidence in science; public understanding of science, limitations of science, scientism; scholastic metaphysics (as it relates to epistemology).
- (3) 1998-PRESENT. STATISTICAL CONSULTANT, VARIOUS COMPANIES
 Most of my time is spent coaxing people out of their money to tell them
 they are too sure of themselves. All manner of analyses cheerfully undertaken. Example: Fraud analysis; I created the Wall Street Journal's
 College Rankings. I consultant regularly at Methodist and other hospitals,
 start-ups, start-downs, and with any instition willing to fork it over.
- (4) 2003-2010. RESEARCH SCIENTIST, NEW YORK METHODIST HOSPITAL, NEW YORK
 Besides the usual, I sit/sat on the Institutional Review Committee to assess the statistics of proposed research. I was an Associate Editor for *Monthly Weather Review* (through 2011). Also a member of the American Meteorological Society's Probability and Statistics Committee (through 2011). At
- (5) Fall 2007, Fall 2010 Visiting Professor of Statistics, Department of Mathematics, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI

a hospital? Yes, sir; at a hospital. It rains there, too, you know.

- Who doesn't love a visit from a statistician? Ask me about the difference between "a degree" and "an education."
- (6) 2003-2007, Assistant Professor Statistics, Weill Medical College of Cornell University, New York, New York Working here gave me a sincere appreciation of the influences of government money; grants galore.
- (7) 2002-2003. Gotham Risk Management, New York A start-up then, after Enron's shenanigans, a start-down. We set future weather derivative and weather insurance contract prices that incorporated information from medium- and long-range weather and climate forecasts.
- (8) 1998-2002. DOUBLECLICK, NEW YORK Lead statistician. Lot of computer this and thats; enormous datasets.
- (9) 1993-1998. Graduate student, Cornell University

- Meteorology, applied climatology, and finally statistics. Was Vice Chair of the graduate student government; probably elected thanks to a miracle.
- (10) 1992-1993. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, SAULT STE. MARIE, MI Forecast storms o' the day and launched enormous balloons in the name of Science. My proudest moment came when I was able to convince an ancient IBM-AT machine to talk to an *analog*, 110 baud, phone-coupled modem, all using BASIC!
- (11) 1989-1992. UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT, CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
 Meteorology and mathematics. Started the local student meteorology group

to chase tornadoes. Who knew Michigan had so few? Spent a summer at U Michigan playing with a (science-fiction-sounding) lidar.

(12) 1983-1989. UNITED STATES AIR FORCE Cryptography and other secret stuff. Shot things; learned pinochle. I adopted and became proficient with a fascinating and versatile vocabulary. Irritate me for examples. TS/SCI, etc. security clearance (now inactive).

2. Education

- (1) Ph.D., 2004, Cornell University. Statistics.
- (2) M.S., 1995, Cornell University. Atmospheric Science.
- (3) B.S., Summa Cum Laude, 1992, Central Michigan University. Meteorology and Math.

3. Publications

$3.0.1.\ Popular.$

(1) Op-eds in various newspapers; articles in *Stream, Crisis Magazine, The Remnant, Quadrant, Quirks*; blog with ∼70,000 monthly readers. Various briefs submitted to government agencies, such as California Air Resources Board, Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Talks and holding-forths of all kinds.

3.0.2. Books.

- (1) Richards, JW, WM Briggs, and D Axe, 2020. *UThe Price of Panic: How the Tyranny of Experts Turned a Pandemic into a Catastrophe*. Regnery. Professors Jay Richards, William Briggs, and Douglas Axe take a deep dive into the crucial questions on the minds of millions of Americans during one of the most jarring and unprecedented global events in a generation.
- (2) Briggs, WM., 2016. Uncertainty: The Soul of Modeling, Probability & Statistics. Springer. Philosophy of probability and statistics. A new (old) way to view and to use statistics, a way that doesn't lead to heartbreak and pandemic over-certainty, like current methods do.
- (3) Briggs, WM., 2008 Breaking the Law of Averages: Real Life Probability and Statistics in Plain English. Lulu Press, New York. Free text for undergraduates
- (4) Briggs, WM., 2006 So You Think You're Psychic? Lulu Press, New York. Hint: I'll bet you're not.

- (1) Briggs, WM and J.C. Hanekamp, 2020. Uncertainty In The MAN Data Calibration & Trend Estimates. Atmospheric Environment, In review.
- (2) Briggs, WM and J.C. Hanekamp, 2020. Adjustments to the Ryden & McNeil Ammonia Flux Model. *Soil Use and Management*, In review.
- (3) Briggs, William M., 2020. Parameter-Centric Analysis Grossly Exaggerates Certainty. In *Data Science for Financial Econometrics*, V Kreinovich, NN Thach, ND Trung, DV Thanh (eds.), In press.
- (4) Briggs, WM, HT Nguyen, D Trafimow, 2019. Don't Test, Decide. In *Behavioral Predictive Modeling in Econometrics*, Springer, V Kreinovich, S Sriboonchitta (eds.). In press.
- (5) Briggs, William M. and HT Nguyen, 2019. Clarifying ASA's view on p-values in hypothesis testing. *Asian Journal of Business and Economics*, 03(02), 1–16.
- (6) Briggs, William M., 2019. Reality-Based Probability & Statistics: Solving The Evidential Crisis (invited paper). Asian Journal of Business and Economics, 03(01), 37–80.
- (7) Briggs, William M., 2019. Everything Wrong with P-Values Under One Roof. *In Beyond Traditional Probabilistic Methods in Economics*, V Kreinovich, NN Thach, ND Trung, DV Thanh (eds.), pp 22—44.
- (8) Briggs, WM, HT Nguyen, D Trafimow, 2019. The Replacement for Hypothesis Testing. *In Structural Changes and Their Econometric Modeling*, Springer, V Kreinovich, S Sriboonchitta (eds.), pp 3—17.
- (9) Trafimow, D, V Amrhein, CN Areshenkoff, C Barrera-Causil, ..., WM Briggs, (45 others), 2018. Manipulating the alpha level cannot cure significance testing. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 9, 699. doi.org/10.3389/ fpsyg.2018.00699.
- (10) Briggs, WM, 2018. Testing, Prediction, and Cause in Econometric Models. In *Econometrics for Financial Applications*, ed. Anh, Dong, Kreinovich, and Thach. Springer, New York, pp 3–19.
- (11) Briggs, WM, 2017. The Substitute for p-Values. *JASA*, 112, 897–898.
- (12) J.C. Hanekamp, M. Crok, M. Briggs, 2017. Ammoniak in Nederland. Enkele kritische wetenschappelijke kanttekeningen. V-focus, Wageningen.
- (13) Briggs, WM, 2017. Math: Old, New, and Equalitarian. Academic Questions, 30(4), 508–513.
- (14) Monckton, C, W Soon, D Legates, ... (several others), WM Briggs 2018. On an error in applying feedback theory to climate. In submission (currently *J. Climate*).
- (15) Briggs, WM, JC Hanekamp, M Crok, 2017. Comment on Goedhart and Huijsmans. Soil Use and Management, 33(4), 603–604.
- (16) Briggs, WM, JC Hanekamp, M Crok, 2017. Response to van Pul, van Zanten and Wichink Kruit. Soil Use and Management, 33(4), 609–610.
- (17) Jaap C. Hanekamp, William M. Briggs, and Marcel Crock, 2016. A volatile discourse reviewing aspects of ammonia emissions, models, and atmospheric concentrations in The Netherlands. *Soil Use and Management*, 33(2), 276–287.

- (18) Christopher Monckton of Brenchley, Willie Soon, David Legates, William Briggs, 2015. Keeping it simple: the value of an irreducibly simple climate model. *Science Bulletin*. August 2015, Volume 60, Issue 15, pp 1378–1390.
- (19) Briggs, WM, 2015. The Third Way Of Probability & Statistics: Beyond Testing and Estimation To Importance, Relevance, and Skill. arxiv.org/abs/1508.02384.
- (20) Briggs, WM, 2015. The Crisis Of Evidence: Why Probability And Statistics Cannot Discover Cause. arxiv.org/abs/1507.07244.
- (21) David R. Legates, Willie Soon, William M. Briggs, Christopher Monckton of Brenchley, 2015. Climate Consensus and 'Misinformation': A Rejoinder to Agnotology, Scientific Consensus, and the Teachingand Learning of Climate Change. Science and Education, 24, 299–318, DOI 10.1007/s11191-013-9647-9.
- (22) Briggs, WM, 2014. The Problem Of Grue Isn't. arxiv.org/abs/1501.03811.
- (23) Christopher Monckton of Brenchley, Willie Soon, David Legates, William Briggs, 2014. Why models run hot: results from an irreducibly simple climate model. *Science Bulletin*. January 2015, Volume 60, Issue 1, pp 122-135.
- (24) Briggs, WM, 2014. Common Statistical Fallacies. *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons*, Volume 19 Number 2, 58–60.
- (25) Aalt Bast, William M. Briggs, Edward J. Calabrese, Michael F. Fenech, Jaap C. Hanekamp, Robert Heaney, Ger Rijkers, Bert Schwitters, Pieternel Verhoeven, 2013. Scientism, Legalism and Precaution—Contending with Regulating Nutrition and Health Claims in Europe. European Food and Feed Law Review, 6, 401–409.
- (26) Legates, DR, Soon, W, and Briggs, 2013. Learning and Teaching Climate Science: The Perils of Consensus Knowledge Using Agnotology. *Science and Education*, DOI 10.1007/s11191-013-9588-3.
- (27) Briggs, WM, 2012. On Probability Leakage. arxiv.org/abs/1201.3611.
- (28) Briggs, WM, 2012. Why do statisticians answer questions no one ever asks? *Significance*. Volume 9 Issue 1 Doi: 10.1111/j.1740-9713.2012.00542.x. 30–31.
- (29) Briggs, WM, Soon, W, Legates, D, Carter, R, 2011. A Vaccine Against Arrogance. Water, Air, & Soil Pollution: Volume 220, Issue 1 (2011), Page 5-6
- (30) Briggs, WM, and R Zaretzki, 2009. Induction and falsifiability in statistics. arxiv.org/abs/math/0610859.
- (31) Briggs, WM, 2011. Discussion to A Gelman. Why Tables are Really Much Better than Graphs. *Journal Computational and Graphical Statistics*. Volume 20, 16–17.
- (32) Zaretzki R, Gilchrist MA, Briggs WM, and Armagan A, 2010. Bias correction and Bayesian analysis of aggregate counts in SAGE libraries. *BMC Bioinformatics*, 11:72doi:10.1186/1471-2105-11-72.
- (33) Zaretzki, R, Briggs, W, Shankar, M, Sterling, M, 2009. Fitting distributions of large scale power outages: extreme values and the effect of truncation. *International Journal of Power and Energy Systems*. DOI: 10.2316/Journal.203.2009.1.203-4374.

- (34) Briggs, WM, 2007. Changes in number and intensity of world-wide tropical cyclones arxiv.org/physics/0702131.
- (35) Briggs, WM, 2007. On the non-arbitrary assignment of equi-probable priors arxiv.org/math.ST/0701331.
- (36) Briggs, WM, 2007. On the changes in number and intensity of North Atlantic tropical cyclones *Journal of Climate*. 21, 1387-1482.
- (37) Briggs, WM, Positive evidence for non-arbitrary assignments of probability, 2007. Edited by Knuth et al. Proceedings 27th International Workshop on Bayesian Inference and Maximum Entropy Methods in Science and Engineering. American Institute of Physics. 101-108.
- (38) Briggs, WM, R Zaretzki, 2007. The Skill Plot: a graphical technique for the evaluating the predictive usefulness of continuous diagnostic tests. *With Discussion. Biometrics.* **64(1)**, 250-6; discussion 256-61. PMID: 18304288.
- (39) Zaretzki R, Gilchrist MA, Briggs WM, 2010. MCMC Inference for a Model with Sampling Bias: An Illustration using SAGE data. arxiv.org/abs/0711.3765
- (40) Briggs, WM, and D Ruppert, 2006. Assessing the skill of yes/no forecasts for Markov observations. *Monthly Weather Review.* **134**, 2601-2611.
- (41) Briggs, WM, 2007. Review of Statistical Methods in the Atmospheric Sciences (second edition, 2006) by Wilks, D.S. Journal of the American Statistical Association, 102, 380.
- (42) Briggs, WM, M Pocernich, and D Ruppert, 2005. Incorporating misclassification error in skill assessment. *Monthly Weather Review*, **133**(11), 3382-3392.
- (43) Briggs, WM, 2005. A general method of incorporating forecast cost and loss in value scores. *Monthly Weather Review*, **133**(11), 3393-3397.
- (44) Briggs, WM, and D Ruppert, 2005. Assessing the skill of Yes/No Predictions. *Biometrics*. **61(3)**, 799-807. PMID: 16135031.
- (45) Briggs, WM, 2004. Discussion to T Gneiting, LI Stanberry, EP Grimit, L Held, NA Johnson, 2008. Assessing probabilistic forecasts of multivariate quantities, with an application to ensemble predictions of surface winds. Test. 17, 240-242.
- (46) Briggs, WM, 2004. Discussion to Gel, Y, AE Raftery, T Gneiting, and V.J. Berrocal, 2004. Calibrated Probabilistic Mesoscale Weather Field Forecasting: The Geostatistical Output Perturbation (GOP) Method. J. American Statistical Association. 99 (467): 586-587.
- (47) Mozer, JB, and Briggs, WM, 2003. Skill in real-time solar wind shock forecasts. *J. Geophysical Research: Space Physics*, **108** (A6), SSH 9 p. 1-9, (DOI 10.1029/2003JA009827).
- (48) Briggs, WM, 1999. Review of Forecasting: Methods and Applications (third edition, 1998) by Makridakis, Wheelwright, and Hyndman; and Elements of Forecasting (first edition, 1998) by Diebold. Journal of the American Statistical Association, 94, 345-346.
- (49) Briggs, W.M., and R.A. Levine, 1997. Wavelets and Field Forecast Verification. *Monthly Weather Review*, **25** (6), 1329-1341.
- (50) Briggs, WM, and DS Wilks, 1996. Estimating monthly and seasonal distributions of temperature and precipitation using the new CPC long-range forecasts. *Journal of Climate*, **9**, 818-826.

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(51) Briggs, WM, and DS Wilks, 1996. Extension of the CPC long-lead temperature and precipitation outlooks to general weather statistics. Journal of Climate, 9, 3496-3504.

- (1) Jamorabo, Daniel, Renelus, Benjamin, Briggs, WM, 2019. "Comparative outcomes of EUS-guided cystogastrostomy for peripancreatic fluid collections (PFCs): A systematic review and meta-analysis, 2019. Therapeutic Advances in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, in press.
- (2) Benjamin Renelus, S Paul, S Peterson, N Dave, D amorabo, W Briggs, P Kancharla, 2019. Racial disparities with esophageal cancer mortality at a high-volume university affiliated center: An All ACCESS Invitation, *Journal of the National Medical Association*, in press.
- (3) Mehta, Bella, S Ibrahim, WM Briggs, and P Efthimiou, 2019. Racial/Ethnic variations in morbidity and mortality in Adult Onset Still's Disease: An analysis of national dataset", *Seminars in Arthritis and Rheumatism*, doi: 10.1016/j.semarthrit.2019.04.0044.
- (4) Ivanov A, Dabiesingh DS, Bhumireddy GP, Mohamed A, Asfour A, Briggs WM, Ho J, Khan SA, Grossman A, Klem I, Sacchi TJ, Heitner JF. Prevalence and Prognostic Significance of Left Ventricular Noncompaction in Patients Referred for Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging. Circ Cardiovasc Imaging. 2017 Sep;10(9). pii: e006174. doi: 10.1161/CIRCIMAGING.117.006174.
- (5) Ivanov A, Kaczkowska BA, Khan SA, Ho J, Tavakol M, Prasad A, Bhumireddy G, Beall AF, Klem I, Mehta P, Briggs WM, fpaSacchi TJ, Heitner JF, 2017. Review and Analysis of Publication Trends over Three Decades in Three High Impact Medicine Journals. *PLoS One*. 2017 Jan 20;12(1):e0170056. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0170056.
- (6) A. Ivanova, G.P. Bhumireddy, D.S. Dabiesingh, S.A. Khana, J. Hoa N. Krishna, N. Dontineni, J.A Socolow, W.M. Briggs, I. Klem, T.J. Sacchi, J.F. Heitner, 2016. Importance of papillary muscle infarction detected by cardiac magnetic resonance imaging in predicting cardiovascular events. *International Journal of Cardiology*. Volume 220, 1 October 2016, Pages 558–563. PMID: 27390987.
- (7) A Ivanov, J Yossef, J Taillon, B Worku, I Gulkarov, A Tortolani, TJ Sacchi, WM Briggs, SJ Brener, JA Weingarten, JF Heitner, 2015. Do pulmonary function tests improve risk stratification before cardiothoracic surgery? *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*. 2015 Oct 30. pii: S0022-5223(15)02165-0. doi: 10.101. PMID: 26704058.
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- and the Medical Knowledge Core Competency. *J Grad Med Educ.* 2013 Sep;5(3):464-7. PMID: 24404311.
- (11) Annika Krystyna, D Kumari, R Tenney, R Kosanovic, T Safi, WM Briggs, K Hennessey, M Skelly, E Enriquez, J Lajeune, W Ghani and MD Schwalb, 2013. Hepatitis c antibody testing in African American and Hispanic men in New York City with prostate biopsy. *Oncology Discovery*, Vol 1. DOI: 10.7243/2052-6199-1-1.
- (12) Ziad Y. Fayad, Elie Semaan, Bashar Fahoum, W. Matt Briggs, Anthony Tortolani, and Marcus D'Ayala, 2013. Aortic mural thrombus in the normal or minimally atherosclerotic aorta: A systematic review and metaanalysis of the available literature. Ann Vasc Surg., Apr;27(3):282-90. DOI:10.1016/j.avsg.2012.03.011.
- (13) Elizabeth Haines, Gerardo Chiricolo, Kresimir Aralica, William Briggs, Robert Van Amerongen, Andrew Laudenbach, Kevin O'Rourke, and Lawrence Melniker MD, 2012. Derivation of a Pediatric Growth Curve for Inferior Vena Caval Diameter in Healthy Pediatric Patients. Crit Ultrasound J. 2012 May 28;4(1):12. doi: 10.1186/2036-7902-4-12.
- (14) Wei Li, Piotr Gorecki, Elie Semaan, William Briggs, Anthony J. Tortolani, Marcus D'Ayala, 2011. Concurrent Prophylactic Placement of Inferior Vena Cava Filter in gastric bypass and adjustable banding operations: An analysis of the Bariatric Outcomes Longitudinal Database (BOLD). *J. Vascular Surg.* 2012 Jun;55(6):1690-5. doi: 10.1016/j.jvs.2011.12.056.
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- (19) Muniyappa R, Briggs WM, 2010. Limited Predictive Ability of Surrogate Indices of Insulin Sensitivity/Resistance in Asian Indian Men: A Calibration Model Analysis. *AJP Endocrinology and Metabolism.* 299(6):E1106-12. PMID: 20943755.
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3.1. Talks (I am years behind updating these).

- (1) Briggs, 2016. The Crisis Of Evidence: Probability & The Nature Of Cause. Institute of Statistical Science, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan.
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- Inferior Vena Cava Filter (CPPOIVCF) in Gastric Bypass and Adjustable Banding Operations: An analysis of the Bariatric Outcomes Longitudinal Database. Eastern Vascular Society 25th Annual Meeting, 2011.
- (3) Wei Li, Jo Daniel, James Rucinski, Syed Gardezi, Piotr Gorecki, Paul Thodiyil, Bashar Fahoum, William Briggs, Leslie Wise, 2010. FACSFactors affecting patient disposition after ambulatory laparoscopic cholecystectomy (ALC) cheanalysis of the National Survey of Ambulatory Surgery (NSAS). American College of Surgeons.
- (4) Wei Li, Marcus D'Ayala, et al., William Briggs, 2010. Coronary bypass and carotid endarterectomy (CEA): does a combined operative approach offer better outcome? - Outcome of different management strategies in patients with carotid stenosis undergoing coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG). Vascular Annual Meeting.
- (5) Briggs, WM, 2007. On equi-probable priors, MAX ENT 2007, Saratoga Springs, NY.
- (6) Briggs, WM, and RA Zaretzki, 2006. On producing probability forecasts (from ensembles). 18th Conf. on Probability and Statistics in the Atmospheric Sciences, Atlanta, GA, Amer. Meteor. Soc.
- (7) Briggs, WM, and RA Zaretzki, 2006. Improvements on the ROC Curve: Skill Plots for Forecast Evaluation. *Invited*. Joint Research Conference on Statistics in Quality Industry and Technology, Knoxville, TN.
- (8) Briggs, WM, and RA Zaretzki, 2005. Skill Curves and ROC Curves for Diagnoses, or Why Skill Curves are More Fun. Joint Statistical Meetings, American Stat. Soc., Minneapolis, MN.
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- (16) Briggs, WM, and RA Levine, 1998. Comparison of forecasts using the bootstrap. 14th Conf. on Probability and Statistics in the Atmospheric Sciences Phoenix, AZ, Amer. Meteor. Soc., 1-4.
- (17) Briggs, WM, and R Zaretzki, 1998. The effect of randomly spaced observations on field forecast error scores. 14th Conf. on Probability and Statistics in the Atmospheric Sciences Phoenix, AZ, Amer. Meteor. Soc., 5-8.
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